(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Shri Dattopant Bapurao Thengadi and Shri Sidh Raj Dhadda whose names were announced on 26th January, 2003, have declined to accept the Padma Bhushan Award.

Arrest of yourftj-children under POTA

2216. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) is it true even young children are being arrested under POTA in Jharkhand;

(b) if so, has the Ministry of Home Affairs asked from State Governments the basis of these arrests; and

(c) how many minors have been arrested under POTA in different parts of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) to (c) The Government of Jharkhand has intimated that two cases involving persons aged 17 years and 18 years have been registered under the POTA, 2002. The implementation of the POTA, 2002 is the responsibility of the State Governments/UT Administrations and the details of the persons arrested under the Act throughout the country are not centrally maintained in this ministry.

Population

†2217. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total population of the country at the time of independence alongwith the total ratio of minorities out of the same;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.